Vol. VIII. Numb. 58

THE

OBSERVATOR.

On the employing of our own Poor, and the absolute Necessity of it, to prevent their growing more numerous. Mr. King, Lancaster-*Herald's Computation of the Numbers of our Rich and Poor. Our Fishery capable of employing most of 'em. Sir* John Burrow's *and Mr.* Keymore's *Computation of the Number of foreign Ships and People employ'd in fishing on our Coasts. On the News that the Negociations of Peace are like to be resum'd.*

From Wednesday, August 17. to Saturday, August 20. 1709.

Country-m. I Must put you in Mind to say something about employing our own Poor, Master, according to your Promise; for many of them grumble, that they are not taken Care of, as well as the poor *Palatines*.

Obj. I have often told you, *Roger*, that were the Money rais'd for the Poor in the several Parishes throughout *England*, duly improv'd, it might be a very good Fund for employing 'em all; but our Temper is such, that except the Legislative Power interpose their Authority, nothing is ever like to be done in it. In Order therefore to shew the Necessity of doing it, 'tis fit, in the first Place, to give the best Account we can of their Number.

Country-m. Pray do, Master; I am afraid 'tis very great and increasing every Day.

Obj. Mr. *King*, *Lancaster*-Herald, of whom I have often made honourable Mention, informs us, *Roger*, that the Bulk of such as are a Burden to the Publick, consists in the Cottagers and Paupers, Beggars in great Cities and Towns, and Vagrants. He adds, that upon a Survey of the Hearth-Book at *Michaelmas*, 1685, it appear'd, that of the 1300000 Houses in *England*, those of one Chimney were 554031; but some of these having Land belonging to them, the Cottagers are computed only at 500000 Families, and a great Number of them earning their own Living, without being a Charge to the Publick, Mr. *King* reduces the Cottagers and Poor that decrease the Wealth of the Nation, by being a Charge to the Publick, to 400000 Families, which, with 30000 Vagrants, make the Number of our Poor, according to his Computation, 1330000; and the Number of those who increase the Wealth of the Kingdom, he computes to be 2675520.

Country-m. I am glad to hear that the Number of those who increase our Wealth, so much exceeds the Number of those that decrease it. But pray, Master, how does he make it out?

Obj. He computes it thus, *Roger*.

160 Temporal Lords, who, one with another, may have in their Families 40 Persons, which make	6400
26 Spiritual Lords *per* Family 20,	520
800 Baronets *per* Family 16,	12800
600 Knights *per* Family 13,	7800
3000 Squires *per* Family 10,	30000
12000 Gentlemen *per* Family 8,	96000
5000 Persons in greater Offices and Places *per* Family 8,	40000
5000 Persons in lesser Offices and Places *per* Family 6,	30000
2000 Eminent Merchants and Traders by Sea *per* Family 8,	16000
8000 Lesser Merchants and Traders by Sea *per* Family 6,	48000
10000 Persons in the Law *per* Family 7,	70000
2000 Eminent Clergy-men *per* Family 6,	12000
8000 Lesser Clergy-men *per* Family 5,	40000
40000 Free-holders of the better Sort *per* Family 7,	280000
120000 Free-holders of the lesser Sort *per* Family 5 ½,	660000
150000 Farmers *per* Family 5,	750000
15000 Persons in liberal Arts and Sciences *per* Family 5,	75000
50000 Shop-keepers and Tradesmen *per* Family 4 ½,	225000
60000 Artizans and Handicrafts *per* Family 4,	240000
5000 Naval Officers *per* Family 4,	20000
4000 Military Officers *per* Family 4,	16000
In all 500586 Families, and 2675520 Persons.	

Country-m. The Computation seems to be very curious, Master; but I suppose it is not perfectly exact.

Obj. No Body can take it to be so, *Roger*; but at the same Time, it must be own'd to be as good a rough Estimate, as could then be made, *viz.* in 1688, and the Gentleman made Use of the Books for the Hearth and Poll Money, as the best Helps for such a Computation of Houses, Families, and Persons; but 20 Years Time must have made a great Alteration, especially considering the Expence of the War, and Decay of Trade; so that we may reasonably conclude the Number of our Poor bears a much greater Proportion to the Number of the others, than it did then. We have heard there were 500586 Families, upon whom Mr. *King* did then reckon there depended 849000 other Families, *viz.* of common Sea-men 50000, labouring People and out-Servants 364000, Cottagers and Paupers 400000, common Soldiers 35000, making in all 2795000 Persons, besides 30000 Vagrants: and we have no Reason to doubt, but the Families upon whom the rest depend and subsist now, are much less in Number, as well as less able to maintain so many Dependants; which, together with the vast Number of Soldiers and Sea-men that must be provided for upon a Peace, is enough to awake the Thoughts of all Men who wish their Country well, to think of proper Methods for employing our Poor, and not to suffer their Numbers to increase for want of Business.

Country-m. Bless me! Master, if there was then 1330000 Poor, we may well enough suppose they will make 1500000, when our Sea-men and Soldiers that must be cashier'd upon a Peace, are a dead to them. How d'ye propose, that such a Number of Poor should be employ'd?

Obj. You must not reckon all that Number to be quite out of Employment, *Roger*; so that many of 'em will only want farther or better Encrease; which, if right Methods be taken, they may be sufficiently furnish'd with by Agriculture, Manufacture, Fishing, and Navigation; but before any Thing of that Nature can be effectually done, the State of our Fleet and Trade must be consider'd, and all the Abuses that have been complain'd of in the one, and the Discouragements and Obstructions that lie in the Way of improving the other, remov'd as much as possible; and an effectual Method must be taken to force that great Number of Vagrants and idle People, who live upon the Labour of others, to work, which would remove a very great dead Weight that now lies heavy upon the Nation. I have several Times mention'd our Fishery as a Subject capable to employ most, if not all

all our Poor: And to convince you of this, *Roger*, I shall give you some Proofs of it. Sir *John Borrows*, Garter King at Arms, in his Book, entitl'd, *The Sovereignty of the Seas*, publish'd in 1633, says, That 10000 foreign Ships were employ'd in Fishing on our Coasts. Mr. *Keymore*, whose Observations upon the *Dutch* Fishing-Trade, were reprinted here by Order of the Lord-Mayor of *London*, when King *Charles* the IId erected a Fishing Company, says, That 20000 foreign Ships, and above 400000 People were employ'd by the Fishery on our Coasts; and the States General, in their Proclamation *An.* 1624. call their Fishing-Trade the Golden Mine of their Provinces; which supports the Truth of Mr. *Keymore*'s Observation, That the *Dutch* and others raisd more Wealth out of our Seas in one Year, than the King of *Spain* had from the *Indies* in four.

Country-m. These are plain Proofs, Master, that great Numbers of our Poor might be employ'd that Way, the Men by going to Sea a Fishing, and curing 'em at Home, and the Women and elder Children in making Nets, Tackle, and other Things relating to the Trade; and as this would occasion a greater Consumption of our native Product, it would make Employment for others of our Poor in Agriculture, Manufacture, &c. and encourage the Improvement of the many Millions of waste Acres of Ground in the Island, that now yield next to nothing; but we must adjourn this Subject to another Time, tho' I must pray you to go on with it by Degrees, Master; for hires a *Flanders* Mail arriv'd, which says, there's a mighty Talk Abroad, that the Negociations of Peace are like to be speedily renew'd, and that the Marquis *de Torcy*, the *French* King's Minister, who was employ'd in the Preliminaries, is come to their Army in *Flanders*; that the Tumults in *France* continue; that those of *Grenoble* have lately seiz'd 20000 Pistoles, that were design'd for the Duke of *Bernick*'s Army; that the *French* King has order'd Prayers for Peace, forbad the usual Rejoycings on St. *Lewis*'s Day, and that above 200 of the Camisars have been executed in three Weeks in *Languedoc*.

Obs. You remember, *Roger*, that *Jeffreys*'s bloody Campaign in the West of *England*, was soon follow'd by the Ruin of himself and his Master. When once People begin to be uneasy, and take Arms against Tyrants, they seldom give over, but kick on like an unruly Horse, 'till they cast their Rider; from whence the Poet *Juvenal* made this just and true Observation, —

Sine cede et sanguine Pauci
Descendunt Reges et sicca morte Tyranni.

Which may be paraphras'd thus:

As Blood and Slaughter Tyranny defend,
They bring most Tyrants to a dismal End.

As to resuming of the Negociations of Peace, *Roger*, I make no doubt but the Confederates will consider with whom they have to do, and send wise Men to the Market with proper Instructions.

Country-m. To the Market, Master! What do you mean? Do you call Treaties Markets?

Obs. Yes, *Roger*, I do; and that by the Authority of no less a Statesman than *Philip de Commines*, who call'd the Treaty betwixt *Lewis* the XIth of *France*, and the Duke of *Burgandy*, and his Confederates, a Market, and tells us, That such Assemblies or Congresses, as we now word it, are very dangerous Markets too; especially, when they have to do with a Prince who knows the Art of Bribing, and what Persons are fit to be caught by such a Bait. *Lewis* the XIth was reduc'd to a greater Strait then, than *Lewis* the XIVth is now; he was defeated in a Battel near *Paris*, and, in a manner, besieg'd there by *Charles*, the terrible or warlike of *Burgundy*, the most powerful Prince then in *Europe*, who was join'd by the *French* King's own Brother, and other Princes of the Blood; but *Lewis* made so good a Market on't at the Treaty of *Conflans*, as prov'd fatal to the Duke and his Family afterwards, and laid the Foundation of that Grandeur of the *French* Monarchy, which has gone so near to ruin the House of *Austria*, Duke *Charle*'s Descendants, and all *Europe* besides.

Country-m. How did *Lewis* manage the Market? I long to hear that, Master.

Obs. The same Author tells us, *Roger*, That he knew all the Persons of chief Note in *England*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and the Dominions of *Burgundy*, had Pensioners in every Court; and knowing 'twas his Interest to break that Confederacy, he granted them all their Demands, but shamefully broke the Treaty afterwards, being left in Possession of his arbitrary Power; which is all I shall say at present, *Roger*; for you know the Proverb, *A Word's enough to the Wise*.

Advertisements.

☞ Whereas there was an Advertisement in the Daily-Courant of the 28th of July last, and in this Paper the 6th of this Instant, wherein is promis'd a Reward of 20 Pounds to any Person that shall make a true Discovery who it was that lately sent a small white Deal-Box, wherein was a Hat-Case, which was left with the House-keeper at the Custom-house, London; this is therefore to give Notice, that if the said Discovery be not made as aforesaid within six Days after the Date hereof, the Reward therein mention'd will not be pay'd.

☞ The Christian's Gazette, or News chiefly respecting the invisible World; being a Packet for the pious Virtuosi, on Subjects never started before, viz. 1. The celestial Court, or News concerning that invisible World we should correspond with. 2. The Saints in Heaven will be eternally making new Discoveries. 3. The visible World is nothing else but the disclos'd Image of an occult Deity. 4. The Language of Angels, or the Manner how they discourse with God, and one another. 5. No Man shall know his Father, Brother, or Wife, in Heaven, as is generally believ'd. 6. A good Man might live invisible to all the World, but himself; with a late Instance of it in Mr. Welby. 7. There will be a new Sun, Moon, and Stars. 8. Proxy-Marriage, or an Essay on that Princely Custom of Courting by Pictures, and Marrying by Substitutes. 9. Due Benevolence modestly stated, in a Letter to Madam ---, who denies to her Husband the Lawful Use of the Marriage-Bed. 10. Death-Bed Charity, or Alms and no Alms, a Paradox, proving Madam J--N--'s giving 50 l. a Year to the Poor of St. A---, was no Charity, but (as she vainly thought) a Sort of compounding with God Almighty, for her giving nothing to the Poor in her Life-time. To which is added, A Copy of her unjust and ridiculous Will, with a Paraphrase upon each Legacy, (but more especially upon that of bequeathing her Soul to Almighty God.) The whole being serious Reflexions on the Life and Death of that scraping and useless Miser, Madam J--N--, and upon the Panegyrick-Sermon, preach'd at her Funeral by Dr. C--of St. A--. Written by the Author of the late Essay, entitul'd, The Hazard of a Death-Bed Repentance. Price 1 s. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall.

AT the Whitehall Coffee-house over Buckingham Court, near Charing Cross, a Gentleman is to be spoke with every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Morning, that undertakes, by the Blessing of God, to cure Cancers in Womens Breasts, and the Disease vulgarly call'd the King's-Evil, in a very short Time, and that without Incision, Cauterizing, Fluxing, or any violent Methods, only by the Use of inward pleasant Medicines, as may be given and apply'd to a sucking Child: Which, by their innate Specifick, and approved Vertues, cure both these Distempers, by rectifying the Defenders of the Blood, tartyan the Humours Liquors in the Glands, and putting them into Motion. He expects no Money for his Attendance or Medicines, till the Cure is perfected.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink against the Venereal Disease. Its wonderful Efficacy is such, that any Patient may be thereby most effectually cur'd, be it of never so long standing, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with most excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Nose fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eases all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Use of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promises, if any Patient, tho' diffigur'd by other Practitioners, will come to his House, he will furnish them with Necessaries, as well as Physick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not satisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Physick. The Taste of this Decoction is so pleasant, and the Operation so kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seasons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be spoken with at all seasonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over against little Turn-stile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be seen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

☞ Just publish'd, ☜

QUACKERY UNMASK'D, being a rational and effectual Answer to Mr. Marten's Treatise of the Venereal Disease, its Appendix, (for publishing which, as appears by the Gazette of the 30th of July, he now stands indicted) and the charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 1 s. 6 d.) by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in St. Christopher's Church-yard, B. Barker in Westminster-hall, Booksellers; and by the Author, Dr Spinke, at his House, the Golden Ball in the dark Passage, three Doors beyond the Sun Tavern in Honey-Lane Market, Cheapside. Where also may be had, ☞ ANTIVENEREAL-PILLS, &c. (the most powerful Medicines for that Disease yet known) Price 3 s. the Box, with Directions.

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